

Youth Deer Hunt

This year's hunt: October 8 - 9, 2011

The youth deer hunt was made possible through the Deer 2000 and Beyond Project. The hunt is designed to give youth hunters ages 10-15 an opportunity to hunt deer and gain valuable hunting experience at a time when other hunters are not authorized to hunt deer with a firearm. Since 2009, hunters 10-15 years of age, with or without hunter education certification, are eligible to participate in the youth gun deer hunt with a mentor (see below for details).

The 2009 Wisconsin Whitetail Youth Hunt proved to be an exciting and successful weekend for Megan Mader, age 13. Congratulations to Megan on her successful hunt!



Youth Hunt Rules and Regulations:

- Youth hunters ages 10 thru 15 may hunt deer with a gun on October 8 & 9, 2011 in all deer management units (DMU's), except non-quota areas, state park units and deer management unit 48. A deer hunting license is required.
- Both resident and non-resident youth hunters are eligible to participate.
- The bag limit is one buck with their *Gun Buck Deer Carcass Tag* plus additional antlerless deer per *Antlerless Deer Carcass Tag* valid for the DMU the youth is hunting or their *Jr. Antlerless Deer Carcass Tag* which is valid statewide.
- In DMU's designated as CWD units, youth hunters are also exempt from the earn-a-buck (EAB) requirements, to fill their one green "Gun Buck Deer Carcass Tag".
- Following EAB rules, a youth may harvest and tag bucks or antlerless deer using the free 2011-12 or 2012-13 "CWD Deer Carcass Tags" in CWD units. Further details on EAB rules and CWD tags is available on page 15 of 2011 Wisconsin Deer Hunting Regulations.
- Allowable types of guns are those authorized on the first day of the regular 9-day, November gun deer season in the area being hunted.
- One adult may not accompany more than 2 youth hunters. If one youth is under the "mentored hunter" rules, the adult may "accompany" no more than one other youth at the same time and only if the 2nd youth is at least 12-15 years of age and has completed hunter education (see rules below for details).
- All other hunting regulations apply. See the 2011 Wisconsin Deer Hunting Regulations for more information.

For youth hunters 12 - 15 years of age (resident and non-resident) who possess a hunter education certificate of accomplishment and a gun deer hunting license:

- Hunters must be accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older. To “**accompany**” means the adult is within both visual and voice contact of the youth. The adult does not have to be a licensed hunter or a hunter education graduate to accompany 1 or 2 youth who are at least 12 years of age and have completed a hunter education course.
- Adults accompanying youth hunters may not “gun hunt” for deer during the youth hunt, but may possess a bow or gun and hunt for a game species that is open for them to hunt at that time.
- An adult may not accompany more than two youth hunters during the youth gun deer hunt at any given time.

For all youth hunters 10-11 years of age, or youth hunters 12-15 years of age who do not possess a hunter education certificate, and who possess a gun deer hunting license:

- Hunters must be “**mentored**” by an adult who is within arm’s reach at all times during the hunt.
- Qualified adult mentors must be at least 18 years of age and have the youth’s parent or guardian’s permission to mentor the youth hunter.
- Mentors must possess a valid Wisconsin hunting license for the current hunting season. Type of hunting license does not matter, unless the mentor will be hunting other game. When hunting on land the mentor owns or occupies, a mentor is exempt from the hunting license requirement if not hunting, or if only hunting rabbits, squirrel, raccoon, fox, coyote, beaver woodchucks or unprotected species.
- If the mentor was born on or after 01/01/73, they must be a graduate of a hunter education course or have completed basic training with the U.S. Armed Forces.
- Qualified adult mentors may only mentor one youth hunter who is age 10 or 11, or who has not completed hunter education at any given time.
- Only one firearm, bow or crossbow may be possessed jointly between the mentor and youth who is age 10 or 11, or who has not completed hunter education, if participating in the youth gun deer hunt.
- Mentors are encouraged to go over the four basic rules of firearm safety with the youth prior to hunting:
 - Treat every gun as if it were loaded;
 - Always point the muzzle in a safe direction;
 - Be sure of your target and beyond; and
 - Keep your finger out of the trigger guard until you are ready to shoot.
- Additional information on Wisconsin’s [Mentored Hunting Program web page](#).